



News Release

Contact: Mario Morrow
517.373.9280

www.michigan.gov/lara

Email: mediainfo@michigan.gov

Rick Snyder, Governor
Steven H. Hilfinger, Director

Governor Snyder Proclaims October 7-13 as Fire Prevention Week “Have 2 Ways Out!”

Having a home escape plan essential when fire breaks out

October 5, 2012. Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed October 7-13 Fire Prevention Week in Michigan to encourage individuals and families to develop and practice home fire escape plans, and to ensure homes are equipped with working smoke alarms or automatic fire sprinkler systems for additional preparedness. This year's theme is “Have 2 Ways Out.”

“Home escape planning is critical because fire is unpredictable and moves fast, so every second counts,” said State Fire Marshal Richard Miller. “In less than three minutes, your home could be totally engulfed in flames. Every family member should know how to react quickly and calmly.”

In 2011, 68 people in Michigan died in home fires and fire departments throughout the state responded to 15,578 home fires, according to the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Home is where people are at greatest risk from fire with more than 75 percent of all fire fatalities occurring in home fires. Cooking equipment, heating and electrical equipment, smoking materials, and lit candles are among the leading causes of all reported home fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), less than 25 percent of American households have developed and practiced a fire escape plan to be prepared in the event of a real emergency.

Here are some important tips for developing a home fire escape plan:

- Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Make a map of the entire home that indicates areas to escape.
- Write the fire department emergency phone number or “911” on the escape plan.
- Identify a safe meeting place outside in front of the home where everyone can meet once they have escaped.
- Draw a picture of the outside meeting place on the escape plan.
- Post the escape plan in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator
- Sound the smoke alarm and practice the escape plan with everyone living in the home.
- Have a family “fire drill” with the entire family practicing the plan twice a year; and sound the smoke alarm.

-more-

According to Miller, nearly two-thirds of home structure fire deaths occur in homes where there is no smoke alarm or where smoke alarms are present but fail to operate because the batteries have been removed. Having working smoke alarms cuts the risk of dying in reported home fires in half and having automatic fire sprinkler systems in the home cuts the risk of dying in a home fire by about 80 percent.

“Many homes still have only one smoke alarm and that is simply not enough,” Miller said. “There should be working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom and in the basement.”

Miller recommended installing the 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm that is sealed and cannot be tampered with, and the newer, interconnected smoke alarms that offer the best protection because when one sounds, they all do. Smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month using the test button and the batteries replaced every year.

The Michigan Bureau of Fire Services joins the NFPA and other state and national organizations in recognizing Fire Prevention Week.

The NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 90 years making it the longest-running public health and safety observance on record. This annual public awareness and safety commemoration is proclaimed by the President of the United States each year and is observed by fire departments throughout Michigan, in the U.S. and Canada. For additional information about preventing fires and staying safe, go to the NFPA’s official Fire Prevention Week website at www.firepreventionweek.org

For more information about LARA, please visit www.michigan.gov/lara

Follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/michiganLARA](https://twitter.com/michiganLARA)

“[Like](#)” us on Facebook or find us on YouTube www.youtube.com/michiganLARA

###